

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 9-16 are allowed.

Independent claims 9 and 16 are directed towards an apparatus and method for motion estimation and include "...determining, by the motion estimation apparatus, whether a horizontal search pattern, which is elongated in a horizontal direction of the search window, or a vertical search pattern, which is elongated in a vertical direction of the search window, is to be used as a subsequent search pattern; (d) defining, by the motion estimation apparatus, the subsequent search pattern in the search window, wherein the subsequent search pattern is the horizontal or vertical search pattern as determined in step (c) and wherein the minimum BDM of the initial or current search pattern is positioned at one among a plurality of central locations of the subsequent search pattern; (e) searching, by the motion estimation apparatus, for a location of a minimum BDM in the subsequent search pattern defined in step (d); (f) repeating, by the motion estimation apparatus, steps (c)-(e) until the location of the minimum BDM of the subsequent search pattern falls in one of the central locations thereof; (g) designating, by the motion estimation apparatus, the locations of the minimum BDMs found in steps (b) and (e) as motion vectors; and (h) outputting, by the motion estimation apparatus, the motion vectors from said motion estimation apparatus... which features that are not anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. Dependent claims 10-15 are allowed for the reasons concerning the independent claims.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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